

Claims

1. A system for distributing electronic coupons, comprising:
a plurality of wireless mobile terminals;
5 a customer profile database for storing a plurality of customer profiles
corresponding to the wireless mobile terminals; and
a server, operatively coupled to the customer profile database and communicating
with the wireless mobile terminals over a network, for selectively transferring one or
more electronic coupons to at least one of the wireless mobile terminals based on a
10 comparison between the customer profiles and seller filtering criteria.
2. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
means for determining the current location of each of the wireless mobile
terminals and storing data representing the current location in the customer profile
15 database.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein the determining means includes a global
positioning system (GPS) subsystem in each of the mobile wireless terminals and an
application in each of the mobile wireless terminals for transferring the location indicated
20 by the GPS subsystem to the customer profile database.
4. The system of claim 2, wherein the determining means includes an application for
determining the current location based on a base station identifier associated with each of
the wireless mobile terminals.
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5. The system of claim 2, wherein the determining means includes an application for
determining the current location based on a base station RF triangulation method
performed by wireless network infrastructure.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the seller filtering criteria includes a maximum distance between the physical location of the seller and a potential customer.
7. The system of claim 6, further comprising an application for computing the distance between the current location of each of the wireless mobile terminals and the physical location of the seller and for selecting those wireless mobile terminals within the maximum distance.
8. The system of claim 1, wherein the seller filtering criteria includes a latest arrival time.
9. The system of claim 8, further comprising:
means for determining the travel times between the current locations of the wireless mobile terminals and the seller's physical location; and
means for determining estimated arrival times for the wireless terminal based the travel times; and
means for transferring the electronic coupons only to those wireless mobile terminals having an estimated arrival time prior to the latest arrival time.
10. The system of claim 9, wherein the means for determining driving times includes a publicly available traffic congestion server.
11. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
a seller interface, operatively coupled to the server, for permitting sellers to enter the seller filtering criteria.
12. The system of claim 1, wherein the seller filtering criteria includes parameters selected from the group consisting of service type, goods type, latest arrival time, coupon expiration date, coupon expiration time, discount amount, coupon offer, seller physical location, landmark information, and any combination of the foregoing.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein each of the customer profiles includes data selected from the group consisting of static data, dynamic data and any combination of the foregoing.

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14. The system of claim 13, wherein the static data includes data selected from the group consisting of name, customer ID, association membership, diet preferences, age, gender, allergies, hobbies, home address, email address, and any combination of the foregoing.

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15. The system of claim 13, wherein the dynamic data includes current location, time-of-day, calendar date, time of arrival, and any combination of the foregoing.

16. The system of claim 1, wherein each of the wireless terminals includes a display for presenting the electronic coupons to a seller from redemption.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the electronic coupon displays a barcode capable of being scanned by the seller.

18. A method for distributing electronic coupons to wireless mobile terminals, comprising:

storing a plurality of customer profiles corresponding to a plurality of wireless mobile terminals;

selecting at least one of the wireless mobile terminals based on a comparison between the customer profiles and seller filtering criteria; and

transferring over a wireless network one or more electronic coupons to the at least one wireless mobile terminal.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:

determining the current location of each of the wireless mobile terminals; and
storing data representing the current location in the customer profile database.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of determining includes:
5 determining the current location using a global positioning system (GPS)
subsystem in each of the mobile wireless terminals; and
transferring the current location indicated by the GPS subsystem to the customer
profile database.
- 10 21. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of determining includes:
determining the current location based on a base station identifier associated with
each of the wireless mobile terminals.
22. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of determining includes:
15 determining the current location based on a base station RF triangulation method
performed by wireless network infrastructure.
23. The method of claim 18, wherein the seller filtering criteria includes a maximum
distance between the physical location of the seller and a potential customer.
- 20 24. The method of claim 22, further comprising:
computing the distance between the current location of each of the wireless
mobile terminals and the physical location of the seller; and
selecting those wireless mobile terminals located within the maximum distance.
- 25 25. The method of claim 18, wherein the seller filtering criteria includes a latest
arrival time.
26. The method of claim 25, further comprising:

determining the travel times between the current locations of the wireless mobile terminals and the seller's physical location; and

determining estimated arrival times for the wireless terminal based on the travel times; and

5 transferring the electronic coupons only to those wireless mobile terminals having an estimated arrival time prior to the latest arrival time.

27. The method of claim 26, further comprises:
 using a publicly available traffic congestion server for determining driving times.

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28. The method of claim 18, further comprising:
 receiving the seller filtering criteria from at least one seller.

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29. The method of claim 18, wherein the seller filtering criteria includes parameters selected from the group consisting of service type, goods type, latest arrival time, coupon expiration date, coupon expiration time, discount amount, coupon offer, seller physical location, landmark information, and any combination of the foregoing.

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30. The method of claim 18, wherein each of the customer profiles includes data selected from the group consisting of static data, dynamic data and any combination of the foregoing.

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31. The method of claim 30, wherein the static data includes data selected from the group consisting of name, customer ID, association membership, diet preferences, age, gender, allergies, hobbies, home address, email address, and any combination of the foregoing.

32. The method of claim 30, wherein the dynamic data includes current location, time-of-day, calendar date, time of arrival, and any combination of the foregoing.

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33. A wireless mobile terminal, comprising:
a display;
a memory;
a network interface for communicating with a server over a packet network;
5 a processor, operatively coupled to the display, the memory and the network
interface; and
an application stored in the memory and executable on the processor, for
transferring the current location of the wireless mobile terminal to the server and for
receiving and displaying on the display an electronic coupon selectively sent by the
10 server based on the current location of the wireless mobile terminal.
34. The wireless mobile terminal of claim 33, further comprising:
a global positioning system (GPS) subsystem for indicating the current location of
the wireless mobile terminal.
- 15 35. The wireless mobile terminal of claim 33, wherein the application stores the
electronic coupon in the memory.
36. The wireless mobile terminal of claim 33, wherein the application includes means
20 for allowing a user to enter information into a customer profile stored in a database
accessible by way of the packet network.